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## Senate

The Senate met at 8:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, by Your grace You guided the founding of this Nation to be a demonstration of democracy under Your sovereignty. We praise You for Your timely inspiration and interventions all through our history. Our motto, "In God we trust," and our affirmation, "One Nation under God," express our sure confidence and the source of our courage.

As we begin the work of this Senate today, we commit ourselves anew to You. We thank You for the privilege of pressing forward to the next phases of Your vision for our beloved Nation. We open our minds to think Your thoughts. Give us Your perspective on the problems we face and Your power to solve them.

Help the Senators to listen to one another so that their debate on issues will be a dialog leading to creative resolutions combining the best of supernatural wisdom that You provide through many minds.

Bless the entire Senate family engaged in so many different tasks today to enable the work of the Senate to be done effectively. Make each person sense Your presence, encouragement, and strength. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, let me say

there will be a period of morning business until the hour of 10 o'clock. At 10 o'clock, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1664, the immigration bill, with Senator SIMPSON to be recognized to offer an amendment.

Rollicall votes can be expected throughout the day on the immigration bill. It is the hope of the majority leader that we may complete action on that bill, the immigration bill, during today's session. It is also possible for the Senate to consider the omnibus appropriations conference report if that measure becomes available.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I believe that Senator BREAU and I have an hour of morning business starting now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

### BALANCED BUDGET COMPROMISE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, 4 months ago Senator BREAU and I asked a small group of our colleagues to get together on a bipartisan basis to discuss how we might reenergize the stalled negotiations on a balanced budget. At that time neither the White House nor the congressional budget negotiators were making the compromises necessary to reach a final balanced budget agreement.

You may recall, Mr. President, at that time there could not even be agreement on what economic assumptions were to be used as the starting point.

In advancing our efforts, Senator BREAU and I hoped to demonstrate to the Republican congressional leadership and to the White House, the ad-

ministration, that a group of Senators—Democrats and Republicans, from the middle of the political spectrum—were willing to set aside partisanship to reach a balanced budget agreement. We strongly believe that the single most important action that this Congress can take for the benefit of our Nation is balancing the budget.

The members of our group come to this effort with a wide range of perspectives on how we ought to solve the budgetary problems. Each of us, if left to our own devices, might come up with a different balanced budget agreement than the one we arrived at. But nonetheless, all of us made concessions and compromises in order to forge our plan.

This chart shows the problem that faces the Nation. And by the way, these figures come from the Congressional Budget Office. That is the official group that provides budget projections to this body. These are not the administration's figures, they come from our own budget office. Here is the deficit today, somewhere around \$140 billion. Left unchecked, it will increase each and every year, until in the year 2006, which is only 10 years from now, Mr. President, it is projected to exceed \$400 billion.

Those are the bills that we are sending to our children because we refuse to take the steps that are necessary to balance this budget.

Senator BREAU and I and our group of some 22 Senators, 11 Republicans and 11 Democrats, have come up with a proposal, and this chart compares the different plans. The first column is the Chafee-Breau plan. The second is what the leadership of the Republican Party has presented. The third is what the administration has presented.

It is a fairly busy chart so I will not go into all the details, but I will point

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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